[*Note*.—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II. ANNOUNCEMENT. *re*-MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY

3·20 p.m.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have to announce to the House that I have received a message, dated 22nd August 1961, from the Deputy Speaker, Legislative Assembly, transmitting a copy of the Madras Preservation of Private Forests (Amendment) Bill, 1961 (L.A. Bill No. 25 of 1961), as passed by the Assembly, on the 22nd August 1961, for the concurrence of the Council.

III. ADJOURNMENT MOTION *re* DELIMITATION OF COUNCIL CONSTITUENCIES (MADRAS) ORDER, 1961.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have received notice of a motion given by Sri Mohamed Raza Khan for the adjournment of the business of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the failure of the Government to consult the House before advice was tendered to the President of India in the matter of amendment to the Delimitation of Council Constituencies (Madras) Order, 1961, and also the failure of the Government to give correct advice in regard to the allocation of the sitting Members to the newly delimited constituencies.

The matter to be discussed is no doubt a definite matter of public importance. But section 12 of the Representation of the People Act constitutes the President of India as the sole and final authority empowered to alter or amend by order from time to time any order of delimitation of constituencies made under section 11. This section further empowers the President to allocate any sitting member to any of the newly delimited constituencies. It requires only that before such an order is made, the President shall consult the Election Commission. It is not laid down that the President shall, before such an order is made, consult the State Government or that the State Government shall consult the House concerned. In other words, it is not statutorily obligatory on the part of the President to consult the State Government concerned or the State Government to consult the House.

Such being the legal position, if at all the State Government is consulted, it is not because it is obligatory, but perhaps because of expediency or convenience. The State Government may informally consult the House before they make any representations but they are not bound to consult.

This being so, the responsibility of the State Government to consult the House is not established. Further, a starred question on the above subject given notice of by Dr. A. Sreenivasan has been admitted and communicated to the Department. The question is likely to be answered in the course of this meeting and hon. Members will have ample opportunity to elicit full and further information they require on this matter.

For these reasons, I rule the motion out of order.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : I rise on a point of order, Sir. I want a ruling from the Chair on a very important matter. I want to know whether the Ghairman himself who is also connected with this matter, can occupy the Chair and give the ruling. If the Chairman is not ready to give a ruling, he should allow me some more time to-morrow at least, so that I may bring authorities to show that where the Chairman is directly interested in the matter, he should vacate the Chair and allow any other member who is not connected with it to give a ruling. I do not in any way dispute your ruling, Sir. It may be perfect as far as the legal side is concerned. We have to satisfy the public also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no question of the public being satisfied. It is not a matter where I am concerned or any other member is concerned directly. It is a question of delimitation of constituencies. I have given the constitutional aspect, and ruled the motion out of order.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : May I make a statement?

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. There can be no discussion on the ruling.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : I am sorry, Sir.

IV. GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.

DISCUSSION ON THE STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD BUDGET FOR 1961–62—*cont.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now we will continue the discussion on the Electricity Board Budget. Sri A. K. Thangavel Mudaliar will speak.

* SRI A. K. THANGAVEL MUDALIAR : தலைவரவர்களே, மின்சார வரவுசெலவுத் திட்டத்தைப்பற்றி, நம் தமிழ்நாட்டில் மின்சார போர்டு திட்டம் போட்டு காரியங்கள் செய்து வருவதில் நம் நாட்டிலே உள்ள இதர மாகாணங்களிலே உள்ளவர்களும் வெளிநாட்டவர்களும் பெருமைப்படக்கூடிய வகையில் பேசப்பட்டு வருகிறது. இதற்கு எல்லாம் முக்கியமான காரணம் காரியத்தை எடுத்துச் செய்யும் தலைவர்களின் திறமை தான் என்று சொல்லவேண்டும். காரியங்களைச் செய்வது திறமையாக இருந்தாலும் போர்டின் மனப்பான்மை இருக்கிறதே, அது லாபத்தைச் சம்பாதிக்கிறதாகத்தான் இருக்கிறது. பார்டிகளிடத்திலே, ஜனங்களிடத்திலே அதிகப்பணம் வாங்குகிறது. மின்சாரத்தினால் ரொம்ப சௌகரியம் என்று பெருமையாகப் பேசுகிறார்கள். அதனால் நமக்கு என்ன லாபம்? நமக்கு நஷ்டம்தான். போர்டின் மனப்பான்மை எப்படி இருக்கிறது என்றால், பொதுவாக அதிகப்பணம் வசூல் பண்ண வேண்டும். அதனாலே யாருக்கு நஷ்டம்? யார் கிட்டே வாங்குகிறது என்று தெரிந்துகொள்ளவில்லை. பணக்காரர்களிடம் பெரிய ஆட்களிடம் வாங்கலாம்.